

CC96-45

Hampshire County Board of Education

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Gerald A. Mathias

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/DATA
Allen D. Hott



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Helen A. Heatwole, President
Benjamin Elkins
David Parker
Brenda Pyles
Cynthia Smith

46 S. High Street, Romney, West Virginia 26757
Telephone: 304-822-3528
Director of Finance: 304-822-3962

April 17, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Although West Virginia has less financial resources than most other states, the State Board of Education, the West Virginia Legislature, the Hampshire County Board of Education, RESA VIII and our schools have made extraordinary efforts to keep our schools abreast of the rest of the nation in educational technology. In order for us to continue to improve opportunities for our children, it is imperative that the Federal Communications Commission approve the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan for universal service for schools.

It is particularly important that schools and school districts receive the proposed deep discounts for internal classroom wiring and connections. Without proper internal wiring, the needed services will not get to the classroom where they will be most effective. It is also important that no state mechanisms for evaluation of telecommunication plans be included in the final guidelines since this will undermine schools' opportunities to develop plans which will best meet the unique needs of individual schools.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Students and teachers of eastern West Virginia are looking forward to quickly taking advantage of the quality educational experiences which will be made possible by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the FCC regulations which will soon be approved.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald A. Mathias".

Gerald A. Mathias
Superintendent

GAM:jmf

CC96-45



RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Office of Liaison

Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

To: Commissioner Susan Ness

4/23/97

From: John R Morris - Director of Telecommunications 

While I applaud the Commissions proposal to raise money to bring the net to public schools (k thru `12) and libraries; I must beg you to make higher education exempt from this increase. . As a state agency with a fixed budget the only way I'm going to be able to absorb this substantial increase is to forgo our plans to wire the residence halls for the net. It's really a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul and in this case a lot of the Peters are future teachers that will be teaching the Pauls how to use the net.

Thank you for your consideration.

CC Brian Moir
Jeri Semer

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

April 18, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 832
Washington DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the superintendent of a rural school district in North Dakota with a total student population of approximately 620 students K-12. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

The Harvey School District would use "e-rate" discounts in a variety of ways. Our first priority is to set up a fully multi-media, Internet connected lab at our elementary school with computers, at least one, in each classroom. E-rate discounts would allow us to use resources to purchase equipment such as routers and computers, purchase appropriate software and provide training for our staff to make effective use of the equipment and technology to make teaching and learning more effective. We would also use resources to convert our traditional libraries into fully functioning and "connected" media centers making information fully accessible to our students.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Marthaller, Superintendent
Harvey School District #38

CC96-45

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From: <WSpinn@aol.com>
To: A7.A7(sness)
Date: 4/17/97 11:47pm
Subject: E-mail Discounts

Dear Ms. Ness:

As a principal at Kyrene de la Esperanza Elementary School in the Kyrene School District, Tempe, Az, I am pleased you are supportive of affordable access to the Information Superhighway for schools.

The discount plan proposed by the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board will guarantee all schools have opportunity to connect to the Internet. Long distance learning opportunities will enable children everywhere to access and experience things and people previously only available to those of some affluence. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all of our schools and bring service directly into the classrooms where it will impact students' learnings. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is essential to success and accessibility. As a result of this plan, the students of today should be more successful when they enter the work place as adults.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for schools' and libraries' services. Your decisions today will have long range impact on the futures of our children.

Sincerely,

Sheila K. Spinn

Tracie T. McIntyre
19 Hanging Moss Road
Savannah, Georgia 31410

April 16, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room# 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

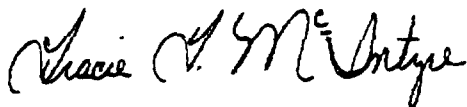
I am a parent from *Blessed Sacrament* school diocese and would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly into the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to this process. This plan is also essential in preparing our students for Workforce 2000.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's Discount plan for universal services to schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tracie T. McIntyre
Parent

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997



Washington Colony School District

130 East Lincoln Avenue • Fresno, California 93706
209/ 233-0706 • FAX 209/ 233-9583

April 18, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from Washington Colony Elementary School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1108 Bissell Avenue
Richmond, CA 94801-3135

Herbert M. Cole, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Telephone: (510) 620-2205
FAX (510) 236-6784

April 21, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to you regarding the Federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally-elected school board member from the West Contra Costa Unified School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country; and, more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue, and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diana Easton".

Diana Easton, Clerk
Board of Education

DE:cl



WOODLAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1620 LIVINGSTON STREET • MANDEVILLE, LA 70448

MARIAN C. ARROWSMITH, PRINCIPAL
JEAN KRIEGER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



April 8, 1997

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997
Federal Communications Commission

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I am a teacher from Woodlake Elementary School in St. Tammany Parish, Mandeville, Louisiana and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools and poorest school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joan Donaldson



YORK TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

1005 WEST MAIN
THOMSON, IL 61285

Telephone 815-259-2489
Fax 815-259-2480

MAY 1 1997

Dear Honorable Susan Ness

RE: CC Docket 96-45 - Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules allow libraries and schools significant discounts for telecommunications and critical, non-telecommunications services necessary to assure that all of our public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in an increasingly information-driven world.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools and libraries that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with Internet. By allowing telecommunications companies and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our libraries and schools and ultimately for us all, as a better educated community benefits everyone.

Sincerely

York Township Public Library Board Members

Virginia Petersen
Lynn Bower
Violetta Atherton
Tara Donart
Carolyn Carroll

Mary A. Falls
Deanna Kamen
Donna Stan
Joe Muck



WOODLAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1620 LIVINGSTON STREET • MANDEVILLE, LA 70448

MARIAN C. ARROWSMITH, PRINCIPAL
JEAN KRIEGER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



April 8, 1997

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

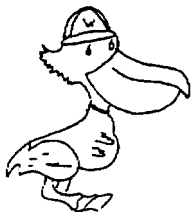
I am a teacher from Woodlake Elementary School in St. Tammany Parish, Mandeville, Louisiana and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools and poorest school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



WOODLAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1620 LIVINGSTON STREET • MANDEVILLE, LA 70448

MARIAN C. ARROWSMITH, PRINCIPAL
JEAN KRIEGER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



April 8, 1997

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a teacher from Woodlake Elementary School in St. Tammany Parish, Mandeville, Louisiana and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools and poorest school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

GREG F. DAVIS, PRESIDENT
LINDA P. BENTON, VICE PRESIDENT
MATTHEW D. HILL, SECRETARY

CARTERSVILLE SCHOOL BOARD

310 OLD MILL ROAD • CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA 30120 • (770) 382-5880 • FAX (770) 387-7476

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary JAMES D. KENNEDY, JR.
BETH MATHISON
RICHARD ODOM
STEVE OWEN

FAX TRANSMITTAL

HAROLD T. BARNETT, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

MIKE BRYANS, Ed.D.
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

To: The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman, fax: 202-418-2801
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner, fax: 202-418-2820
The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner, fax: 202-418-2821
The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner, fax: 202-418-2802

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

From: Harold T. Barnett

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Re: E-Rate Telecommunications Discount

Date: April 27, 1997

Number of Pages, including this sheet 1**COMMENTS:**

Dear Commissioners/Chairman:

As superintendent of schools for a small urban district of 3,200 students, I want to express my appreciation for your hard work in recognizing that school districts must have affordable access to the InterNet. In my district it has become an expensive but necessary teaching tool.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision is a good one because it provides reasonable opportunity for all school districts to have affordable InterNet connection and distance-learning. The \$ 2.25 billion per year should adequately address the needs of schools and just as importantly will bring services directly to the classroom where learning takes place. Inclusion of the internal classroom connections, at a discounted rate, is imperative.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint-Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

MIDDLE GEORGIA REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

P. O. Box 1148
FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA 31030

PHONE: (912) 825-3132

DR. JACKIE G. STINCHCOMB, DIRECTOR

FAX: (912) 825-8248

April 25, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am the director of a regional educational agency in the Middle Georgia area. In the rural areas that my agency serves, it is imperative that students have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

Our school systems need discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the discount plan for universal service for schools.

Sincerely,

Jackie Stinchcomb

Rau Elementary School

HC 57 Box 4030
Sidney, Montana 59270
(406) 482-1088

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 23, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

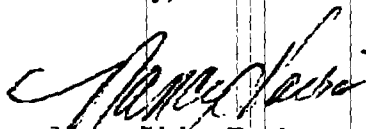
Dear Commissioner Chong,

This is a letter in support of the e-rate Telecommunication discount. Our rural school is looking forward to being able to hook our school up to the information highway.

We are a rural elementary school with 69 students. Our budget is bare bones - the costs of operating a school increase every year and our district taxpayers are not always in support of spending their taxes on education. Our budget is bare bones with little left for programs such as technology. By having access to telecommunication discounts this can be the difference of being on line and not. You can understand how this bill will effect our school and almost every other school in the United States.

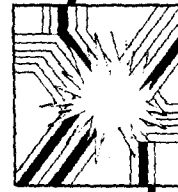
I encourage you to vote a hearty YES to the \$2.25 billion a year plan. The students and children of the future are counting on it.

Sincerely,



Nancy Vaira, Business Manager
Rau Elementary School Dist. #21
Sidney, MT 59270

THE • CENTER • FOR
ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGIES



The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

APR 15 4 48 PM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am an instructor from the Center for Advanced Technologies, Altoona, Pennsylvania, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The Center for Advanced Technologies, a nationally recognized technology education center, will then be better able to ensure that all of the classrooms through our district will be affordably connected to the Internet. It is important for our educators in Altoona to prepare our students to exit school with the technology skills they will need to survive in the workplace. It is vitally important for the economic development of our "rust belt" region to encourage the settlement of new business's in Altoona. This can only be accomplished with a technology enriched local workforce. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will help guarantee our regions growth.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

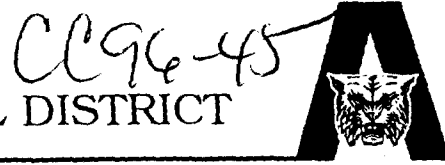
Sincerely,

Ellen Kendall

Ellen Kendall
Instructor



ANGLETON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



JAMES H. SMITH, ED.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

School, Home, & Community

DIANE M. TAYLOR
CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR

April 11, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

For the
Director

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SERVICES
APR 15 4 40 PM '97

Dear Commissioner:

The Angleton Independent School District (AISD) in Angleton, Texas would like to encourage you as a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission to support Proposed "E-rate" Telecommunications Discount Program.

The Angleton Independent School District applauds you and your fellow FCC Commissioners in tackling such a monumental task. We believe that the discounts that will be available to school districts from the proposal will be beneficial to our student population of 6,600. We are a small rural district in the southern coastal region of Texas. We have limited funds in the district to address the high recurring cost of telecommunications services. The \$2.25 billion a year will assist with telecommunication needs for all our campuses, and most importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for increased student performance at the state and national levels.

Our students would benefit greatly from deep discounts for telecommunication services. We have approximately 35% of our diverse student population that are economically disadvantaged. In a recent survey of our student body (Kindergarten through 12th grade), the results indicated that more than 80% did not have access to computer equipment or Internet services in the home environment. It is evident to our district, that in order for our students to gain technology and research skills and to compete in global economy, technology must be integrated into our curriculum and be available in the classrooms. Therefore, we urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to let you know the importance of "E-rate" discounts in the educational arena and to our district.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Taylor
Academic Service Director

/jb:27197g

JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
VANHOOSE EDUCATION CENTER

P.O. Box 34020
Louisville, Kentucky 40232-4020
(502) 485-3011



April 9, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

As Superintendent of the Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, Kentucky, I thank you for your efforts to assure that schools will have affordable access to robust telecommunications services. As access to the Internet and other distance-learning technologies become more and more important, demand for telecommunications services rises exponentially. At present, telecommunications rates for these services are not affordable to us.

The Telecommunications Act of February 1996, and the plan to discount services, will allow all schools the opportunity to connect to the Internet and other distance-learning capabilities. Without these deep discounts, many students will not have the access required to provide the education they need. Since a person's education is now an economic necessity, all students are affected throughout our nation. The \$2.25 billion per year will address the needs of all our schools; and more importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom. Including internal classroom connections for discounts is crucial and essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

In the Jefferson County Public Schools, we plan to use these services to provide information access to the vast resources of the Internet in each classroom, and provide access to other distance-learning resources at universities, other schools, both within and outside of our district.

Significant discounts for telecommunications services are needed for all students this year. It is an investment which will pay huge dividends to our nation. I urge you to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for all schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Stephen Daeschner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Daeschner
Superintendent

SD/tb

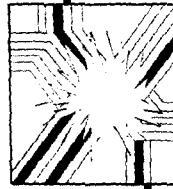
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MAY 1 1997

APR 15 4 48 PM '97

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

THE • CENTER • FOR
ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGIES



The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

For: [illegible] [illegible]

APR 15 4 40 PM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a research and development coordinator from the Center for Advanced Technologies, Altoona, Pennsylvania, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The Center for Advanced Technologies, a nationally recognized technology education center, will then be better able to ensure that all of the classrooms through our district will be affordably connected to the Internet. It is important for our educators in Altoona to prepare our students to exit school with the technology skills they will need to survive in the workplace. It is vitally important for the economic development of our "rust belt" region to encourage the settlement of new business's in Altoona. This can only be accomplished with a technology enriched local workforce. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will help guarantee our regions growth.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Victoria Taylor
Research & Development Coordinator



School District of Superior

Board of Education Building

3025 Tower Avenue
Superior, Wisconsin 54880
(715) 394-8700
FAX (715) 394-8708

April 9, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
202-418-2821
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

APR 15 4 47 PM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

As superintendent of the School District of Superior, I would like to thank you for your efforts to ensure that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Because of our location and the large number of families that qualify for free and reduced lunch programs, the Telecommunications Act is critical to our district. Without this support, children in our district will be severely limited of access to these resources. As with other public schools, we are very limited in funding for telecommunications equipment and personnel to support these systems.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Benjamin J. Kanninen, Superintendent

cc: Mike Willis, Director of Management Information Systems

MONMOUTH UNIT SCHOOL

DISTRICT NO. 38

Monmouth, Illinois 61462

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

APR 15 4 47 PM '97

Garfield Elementary School
Harding Elementary School
Lincoln Elementary School
Willits Elementary School
Central Jr. High School
Monmouth High School

325 South 11th Street
(309) 734-4712

April 10, 1997

Superintendent
Donald R. Jenkins, Ph.D.

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

As Superintendent of Monmouth Unit School District 38 in Monmouth, Illinois, I write to thank you for your dedication to ensuring that all school districts will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

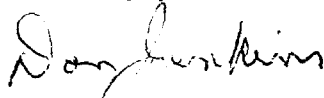
The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. This integration of technology into the classroom is the payoff for students. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is also essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Unit District 38 is making every effort to integrate global communications opportunities into the instructional program. The scope of this program will be severely limited or perhaps even short-lived without this discount plan.

Deep discounts for telecommunications services to schools are needed this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Donald R. Jenkins,
Superintendent
Monmouth Unit School District 38

DRJ/bja

Sheboygan Area School District

Office of the Superintendent
830 Virginia Avenue
Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081-4427
(414)459-3511
Fax: (414)459-6487

William R. Hittman
Superintendent of Schools

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MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

April 15, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
FCC
1919 M Street, NW, Rm 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket #96-45

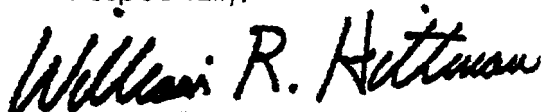
Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the Superintendent for Sheboygan Area School District, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, a district of 10,000+ students.

I am writing in support of the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision which would help guarantee very reasonable rates for telecommunications hook-ups to the Internet. Our state, as in others, has set limits on the revenues which we can expend for the operation of our schools. We are desperately looking for areas in which we can conserve monies to maintain our high quality educational services. Your support and inclusion of the internal classroom connections for discussions is vital.

We thank you for your concern about quality education and the ability for school districts to provide same.

Respectfully,



William R. Hittman
Superintendent

WRH/law

cc: John Scott
Jeanne Bickers





Central Kansas Education Service Center

Dr. Rita C. Cook, Director
1648 W. Magnolia
Salina, Kansas 67401
(913) 825-9185

CC96-45

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Federal Office of Education

April 15, 1997

Dear Commissioner:

I am the Executive Director of an Education Service Center in central Kansas that serves fourteen school districts and I am writing to thank you for your support for the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision that guarantees school districts and consortia have access to technology for long-distance learning.

The funding provided through the Telecommunications Act will allow students to network with others, to access the information highway, and to expand their knowledge opportunities beyond the classroom to the world. Our students will not have this kind of access without deep discounts for telecommunication services this year.

Unfortunately, schools in Kansas are faced with rising operational costs and decreasing amounts of revenue. Many of our schools have limited technology and student access to distance learning and/or networking is slim. We appreciate your efforts in behalf of the students of Kansas and urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Sincerely,

Rita C. Cook

APR 15 2 14 PM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS
FEDERAL BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION



HOLTON-ARMS SCHOOL

April 15, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
APR 15 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am Diana Coulton Beebe, Head of The Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication to ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connects for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Students at Holton-Arms are set to use the Internet in classrooms, labs and our school libraries. They need discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries all over this country.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Diana Coulton Beebe
Head of School

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

4-21-97

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN W. HARRIS

Dear Commissioner Ness:

RE: CC Docket 96-45 - Universal Service to Schools and Libraries

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for schools and libraries as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules allow schools and libraries significant discounts for the telecommunications and *critical, non-telecommunications* services necessary to assure that *all* of our schools are connected to the Internet, and other on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in an increasingly information-driven world.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that Schools and Libraries would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with the Internet. By allowing telco and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our schools and libraries – and – ultimately for us all, as a better educated community benefits everyone. Please do not hesitate to call if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,
Neil ²/₃ Rosemary Costello



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

April 21, 1997

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Central Services Building
5225 West Vliet Street
P O Box 2181
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-2181
Phone: 414-475-8731
Fax: 414-475-8270

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MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

On behalf of the Milwaukee Public School district, I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The 'E-rate' initiative is a critical element to the successful implementation of Milwaukee Public Schools' *Technology Strategic Plan*. We are convinced that the future of our community is linked directly to how successfully we build the Information Superhighway into teaching and learning experiences in Milwaukee.

We have a plan that is developing a broad-base of support. This plan will link each of our 6000 classrooms to the world via voice, data and interactive video communication. Training and curriculum reform to take full advantage of these enhanced capabilities are underway.

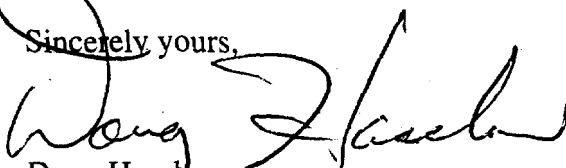
Milwaukee Public Schools is a large, urban district with high concentrations of poverty. We are also operating under state spending caps which limit our opportunities to pool resources needed to link our classrooms to the Information Superhighway. The E-rate will become an important element in addressing future communication requirements. \$2.25 billion will have a great impact and constitute a great beginning.

We are also interested in assuring that the funding reach urban districts like Milwaukee without having the impact diffused. The rules must be constructed to support the intent of the legislation. Your task is daunting, but you can be confident that Milwaukee is prepared to move forward. We will be successful, because the E-rate will create expanded opportunities for Milwaukee's students and teachers.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,


Doug Hasel
Chief Lobbyist

DH/dz

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